

CORRESPONDENCE

PLEUROPNEUMONIA-LIKE ORGANISMS

To the Editor of the
British Journal of Venereal Diseases

DEAR SIR, While reading through the report of the First Canadian Symposium on Non-gonococcal Urethritis and Human Trichomoniasis (1959) I was struck by the fact that in one of the contributions a type of PPLO was referred to as Edward's *Astero-coccus fermentans*. Owing to this new terminology the background of the discovery of this particular human PPLO strain (also called *Mycoplasma fermentans*) seems to be getting lost in the literature. It is for this reason that I wish to recall the history of this particular strain.

In 1950 I succeeded in isolating a PPLO strain in human genital infections which, on the strength of its morphological and cultural properties, should in my opinion be regarded as a deviation from the ordinary human type. This view was shared by Dr. E. Klieneberger-Nobel. Later on cultures of this strain were sent to Dr. D. G. Ff. Edward who found that, as

compared with the ordinary human genital strains, the strain in question possessed particular fermentative properties. In monographs both Edward (1954) and Freundt (1958) clearly presented the development as outlined here. That this has come to be ignored in recent literature must presumably be taken as the result of the introduction of new designations.

Sincerely yours,

M. RUITER.

DERMATOLOGISCHE KLINIEK,
ALGEMEEN PROVINCIAAL, STADS-EN
ACADEMISCH ZIEKENHUIS,
GRONINGEN,
NETHERLANDS.
December 1, 1960.

Edward, D. G. Ff. (1954). *J. gen. Microbiol.*, **10**, 27.
First Canadian Symposium on N.G.U. (1959). Karger, Basel.
Freundt, E. A. (1958). "The Mycoplasmataceae". Munksgaard, Copenhagen.
Ruiter, M., and Wentholt, H. M. M. (1950). *J. invest. Derm.*, **15**, 301.
—, —, (1952). *Ibid.*, **18**, 313.

BOOK REVIEWS

Urology in General Practice. By Ian Parton, 1960. Pp. 293. Butterworth, London. (45s.)

With the increasing complexity of medical investigation and treatment, some medical authorities believe that the future family doctor will have a less complete undergraduate education than his future consultant and hospital colleagues. Others, of whom the reviewer is one, are convinced that the undergraduate education of all medical personnel must be of the same high standard. Those who become family doctors must still be able to act as guide, philosopher and friend to their patients, no matter how difficult it is made by modern medical organization, and they must have a good working knowledge of all the specialties. Mr. Parton has written this book to give such doctors the basic underlying principles of urology. It is a well-written account of the aetiology, clinical features, diagnosis, and principles of treatment of most urological conditions and is full of aphorisms and interesting case reports. Included are good accounts of some of the simple practical urological procedures the general practitioner may be called upon to perform. The book is well illustrated and well produced, and the family doctor who reads it will have a sound basic knowledge of urological problems and will

thereby render his patients much better service. The book will also be useful to others; and many undergraduates and post-graduates will find in its pages a wealth of clinical knowledge, and even those sitting for the higher examinations in surgery may well learn from it. It is a book to be recommended.

T.M.

World Health Organization Technical Report Series, No. 190. Expert Committee on Venereal Infections and Treponematoses Fifth Report, 1960. Pp. 73. H.M.S.O., P.O. Box 569, London. (5s. \$1.00; Swiss frs. 3).

This is a concise report of much study, research, and experience, which should be studied in detail by all interested in venereal and treponemal diseases, not as a text-book of "recent advances", but as a stimulus to further study and reading on the many aspects of a world-wide problem. In the course of a wide-ranging survey of the whole field, the following subjects are considered:

Brussels Agreement on the Management of V.D. in Seafarers

This will be a convenient and invaluable reference for all who work in British V.D. clinics.